

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing to urge you to support the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. I believe the merger holds tremendous potential for my company in west islip, NY which sells EchoStar's DISH Network satellite TV service. The new company will offer a more attractive product to consumers, and this will mean more business for my company.

If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to offer local broadcast stations to all 210 of the nation's television markets. Currently, EchoStar offers service in only 36 markets. This is possible because both EchoStar and DIRECTV currently duplicate hundreds of channels of identical programming. By combining their limited spectrum, the new company will become a fully competitive cable alternative in every television market in the country. This will allow me to provide a better product to my customers in the near future.

This merger will provide consumers across the country with an affordable high-speed Internet access service provider because broadband via satellite can reach areas of the country cable and DSL wires do not. This is rural Americas only realistic hope for affordable broadband service. The new company will also provide much needed competition to cable and DSL where high speed Internet access service is already available.

My customers chose satellite TV over cable because of its superior customer service, better quality picture and sound, and the abundance of channel options. However, cable companies now offer digital cable in millions of homes. This has negated the past advantages of satellite over cable TV and has begun to hurt EchoStar and DIRECTV's ability to compete. The new company will have the resources, spectrum and satellites necessary to offer a competitive satellite TV product, improving customer service and keeping cable prices in check.

Since its inception, direct broadcast satellite TV providers have offered uniform, nationwide pricing structures, and the new company has guaranteed that it will continue this practice. Nationwide pricing offers customers in rural America the full benefits of the rigorous competition occurring in urban and suburban areas. I can rest assured that satellite TV will remain a competitively priced product.

The merged company will provide consumers with a lot of new services, but the availability of an affordable, nationwide high-speed Internet access product in the near future is the most important one to me. It is for this reason that I urge you to support the merger of EchoStar and Hughes Electronics.

Sincerely,

ernest warren

151 malts ave
west islip, NY 11795